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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



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18 1964

ORIGINAL SERIAL RECORDS

FW 1-63  
December 1963

## 1963 WORLD WOOL PRODUCTION

### 5.8 BILLION POUNDS

World wool production in 1963 (including the 1963-64 season in the Southern Hemisphere) is estimated at 5,780 million pounds, greasy basis, up 1 percent from a year earlier, and 7 percent above the 1956-60 average. Production increased in South America, the USSR, Asia, and Oceania in 1963 but declined in North America, Eastern and Western Europe, and Africa.

Production in North America declined 3 percent in 1963, and was 6 percent below average. The low yield was the result of smaller numbers of sheep in both the United States and Canada. Apparently the clip increased moderately in Mexico where sheep numbers are increasing.

Wool production in South America in 1963-64 is not expected to change much from the previous year, but is expected to be about 4 percent above average. The Argentine Wool Federation forecast the 1963-64 clip at 466.4 million pounds. A decline in output in Patagonia will be offset by an increase in Buenos Aires Province as flocks continue to be rebuilt following last year's drought. Carryover stocks were at a minimum at the beginning of the 1963-64 season. Argentine woolen mills have been handicapped by shortages of certain types and grades. Uruguayan wool production has continued to increase moderately during the past several years. Further increases are expected, barring severe drought. Prospects appear good for a slight increase in production in Chile in 1963-64. Pasture conditions are exceptionally good. Programs to improve the carrying capacity of pastures are expected to make possible considerable further expansion in sheep numbers in the years ahead.

This Circular contains more detailed information than the summary of similar title published in World Agricultural Production and Trade, November, 1963.

Table--WOOL: Production in specified countries, greasy basis, average 195  
annual 1961 to 1963

Continent and country					Percent	
					change	
	Average; 1956-60	1961	1962	2/ 1963	1963 1956-60	1963 1962
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent	Percent
North America:						
Canada.....	8.0	7.4	7.2	7.0	-12	-3
United States <u>3/</u> .....	308.8	319.9	299.4	290.0	-6	-3
Mexico.....	9.6	10.5	10.8	11.0	+14	+2
Total North America <u>4/</u> .....	330.0	340.0	320.0	310.0	-6	-3
South America:						
Argentina.....	448.1	468.0	467.3	466.4	+4	---
Brazil.....	60.4	56.8	55.8	58.9	-2	+6
Chile.....	48.7	51.1	50.7	51.6	+6	+2
Falkland Islands.....	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	---	---
Peru.....	20.9	22.0	23.4	23.4	+12	---
Uruguay.....	180.2	185.2	189.6	190.0	+5	---
Total South America <u>4/</u> .....	780.0	805.0	810.0	810.0	+4	---
Europe:						
France.....	62.9	69.2	70.0	61.7	-2	-12
Germany, West.....	11.5	11.4	11.0	10.5	-9	-5
Greece.....	25.1	25.6	25.8	25.9	+3	---
Ireland.....	21.2	24.9	26.6	26.0	+23	-2
Italy.....	30.4	29.1	29.5	29.0	-5	-2
Norway.....	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	---	---
Portugal.....	23.8	24.8	25.1	25.4	+7	+2
Spain.....	72.6	63.9	66.0	63.0	-13	-5
United Kingdom.....	116.3	131.3	132.0	133.0	+14	+1
Total West Europe <u>4/</u> .....	385.0	400.0	405.0	395.0	+3	-2
Bulgaria.....	38.3	51.0	51.0	52.0	+36	+2
Hungary.....	16.3	20.8	20.0	20.0	+23	---
Poland.....	20.4	19.4	18.0	18.3	-10	+2
Rumania.....	44.6	50.7	52.0	52.5	+18	+1
Yugoslavia.....	31.2	30.3	26.4	23.0	-26	-13
Total East Europe <u>4/</u> .....	180.0	200.0	195.0	190.0	+6	-3
Total Europe <u>4/</u> .....	565.0	600.0	600.0	585.0	+4	-3
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....	690.0	800.0	810.0	820.0	+19	+1

(Continued)



WOOL: Production in specified countries, greasy basis, average 1956-60,  
annual 1961 to 1963 1/ (Continued)

Continent and country					Percent change	
	Average:					
	1956-60:	1961	1962	1963	1963	1963
					1956-60:	1962
	Million:	Million:	Million:	Million:	Percent:	Percent:
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	Percent:	Percent:
<b>Africa:</b>						
Algeria.....	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	---	---
Morocco.....	34.9	32.0	32.5	32.0	-8	-2
Tunisia.....	7.8	9.0	9.0	9.0	+15	---
Egypt.....	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.5	+5	+5
South Africa, Republic of 5/.....	323.2	334.6	330.0	325.0	+1	-2
Total Africa 4/.....	405.0	415.0	410.0	405.0	---	-1
<b>Asia:</b>						
Iran.....	41.9	37.5	38.6	39.0	-7	+1
Iraq.....	24.7	23.0	24.0	25.0	+1	+4
Turkey (Europe and Asia).....	91.2	99.2	88.2	92.6	+2	+5
Syria.....	18.2	16.1	17.8	18.0	-1	+1
India.....	73.8	75.4	75.8	76.5	+4	+1
Japan.....	7.5	5.6	4.2	3.5	-53	-17
Pakistan.....	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	---	---
Total Asia 4/.....	495.0	495.0	475.0	480.0	-3	+1
<b>Oceania:</b>						
Australia.....	1578.8	1699.5	1663.3	1738.0	+10	+4
New Zealand.....	538.3	587.1	620.4	630.0	+17	+2
Total Oceania 6/.....	2120.0	2290.0	2285.0	2370.0	+12	+4
Total World 4/ 6/.....	5385.0	5745.0	5710.0	5780.0	+7	+1

1/ For summary purposes wool produced mostly in the spring in the Northern Hemisphere is combined with that produced in the season beginning July 1 or October 1 of the same year in the Southern Hemisphere. Pulled wool is included for most countries at its greasy equivalent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Converted "pulled wool" to greasy basis at 1.7. 4/ Includes estimates for other minor producing countries. 5/ Includes Basutoland and South West Africa. 6/ Rounded to five of million.

Production in Western Europe in 1963 was 2 percent lower than a year earlier but 3 percent above average. The decline in wool production was caused by reduced sheep numbers in most countries. Reduced wool output in 1963 was recorded for each large producing country except the United Kingdom and Portugal. Sheep numbers in the United Kingdom have continued to rise to record high levels.

French sheep numbers appear to be making a good recovery from losses of the past winter and lamb prices are usually high providing considerable incentive for further increases. Large numbers of slaughter sheep have been imported.

Wool production in Eastern Europe in 1963 was down about 3 percent from a year earlier but 6 percent above average. The decline in production about matched the decrease in sheep numbers, largely as a result of the severe winter and of national feed shortages in several countries.

Output in the USSR apparently increased 1 percent in 1963 and was 19 percent above average. The sharp upward trend in sheep numbers may have been halted or reversed in 1963 because of the drought.

Production in Africa apparently declined about 2 percent in 1963-64 and will probably be only about 1 percent above average. Lagging production will be chiefly the result of poor grazing conditions and of a relatively small number of sheep in the Republic of South Africa.

Output in Asia is increasing slightly with larger production recorded in Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. Production in Japan decreased sharply in 1963 because of a decline in sheep numbers in 1962.

Wool production in Australia and New Zealand is increasing moderately, and further increases are in prospect. Production in 1963-64 in the two countries is expected to be 4 percent above the previous year and 12 percent above the 1957-61 average. The current estimate for total wool production in Australia in 1963-64 is 1,738 million pounds, greasy basis, of which 1,589 million is expected to be shorn wool. Sheep numbers in Australia on March 31, 1963 reached the record level of 158.6 million head, about 1 million more than a year earlier. Growing conditions have been very good during the current year and individual fleece weights are expected to be heavy. Sheep numbers in New Zealand are expected to rise about 2 percent this year, and wool production will also reach a new record. With prices of both wool and lamb very favorable to production, the industry has considerable incentive for further growth.

Carryover stocks of raw wool in the five major producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere at the start of the 1963-64 season (July 1 except in Argentina and Uruguay where season begins October 1) are estimated at 75 million pounds, continuing the downward trend of the last few years. Beginning stocks during 1962-63 totaled 87 million compared with 146 million

in 1951-55. Stocks in all of the five countries of the hemisphere in 1963 are either unchanged or below the previous year.

During the 1962-63 season there were again no disposal problems in any of the major exporting countries. Smaller stocks and relatively strong demand in most consuming countries virtually assured sales of available supplies in producing countries at relatively high prices.

There was little need for price support activity by either the New Zealand or South African Wool Commissions as producers' prices received were well above the average of recent years. Neither of these agencies ended the year with wool on hand.

Stocks in 5 major consuming countries on July 1 were also estimated below the previous year for the second straight year. At 376 million pounds they were 24 million pounds below a year earlier and slightly below average.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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